

# help

fanzine



issue



free in  
person/  
\$1.00 ppd

Hello, and welcome to the second issue of help fanzine. This issue has been a long time in the works, and for a number of reasons. First, a rather serious relationship that I was involved in came to an end, and I was pretty wrecked about the whole ordeal for quite some time. I was depressed and without motivation for several months, and the last of my concerns was putting out another 'zine. Believe me, it's kind of tough to do anything when all you can think about is the person you love, and why you can't be with them anymore. Anyway, after moping around the house for days on end, I finally started to feel better, and help #2 started to come together. Another big problem I faced in putting this issue together was an empty bank account. Doing a 'zine takes a lot of money, and when you give your 'zine away for free, you definitely aren't helping matters any. As much as I can't afford it, issue #2 will remain free in person, and instead of two stamps ppd, it will be \$1.00 ppd instead. I don't think that's asking too much, do you? Along with a large sum of money, putting a 'zine together also takes time, and that's a commodity I'm rather short on as well. Between working graveyard at Roadway, going to school, being in a band, and just plain trying to find time to do what I do best, hang out with my friends, it was very difficult to find any time to sit down and put this together. Well, it's been about six months since issue #1 came out, but better late than never, right? Lastly, I need your help to make this 'zine bigger and better. What I need is articles and opinions written by you, the readers, to fill the columns section that I'm planning to have next issue, so get busy already. I also need photos bad, so if you have any extra pics laying around collecting dust, please send them in so I can put them to use. By the way, if you can help out with distribution, drop me a line and we'll work something out. Help is free, so distributors don't really need to worry about much, except getting this 'zine out. I guess that's really it for now, so until next time, whenever that may be, take care. Oh, interviews in this issue are with Threadbare, Boba Fett Youth, and Carissa, the editor of Screams From Inside 'zine, plus the other usual 'zine stuff. Remember, whether you hate this 'zine or whether you love it to pieces, be sure and write, because I'd love to hear from you.

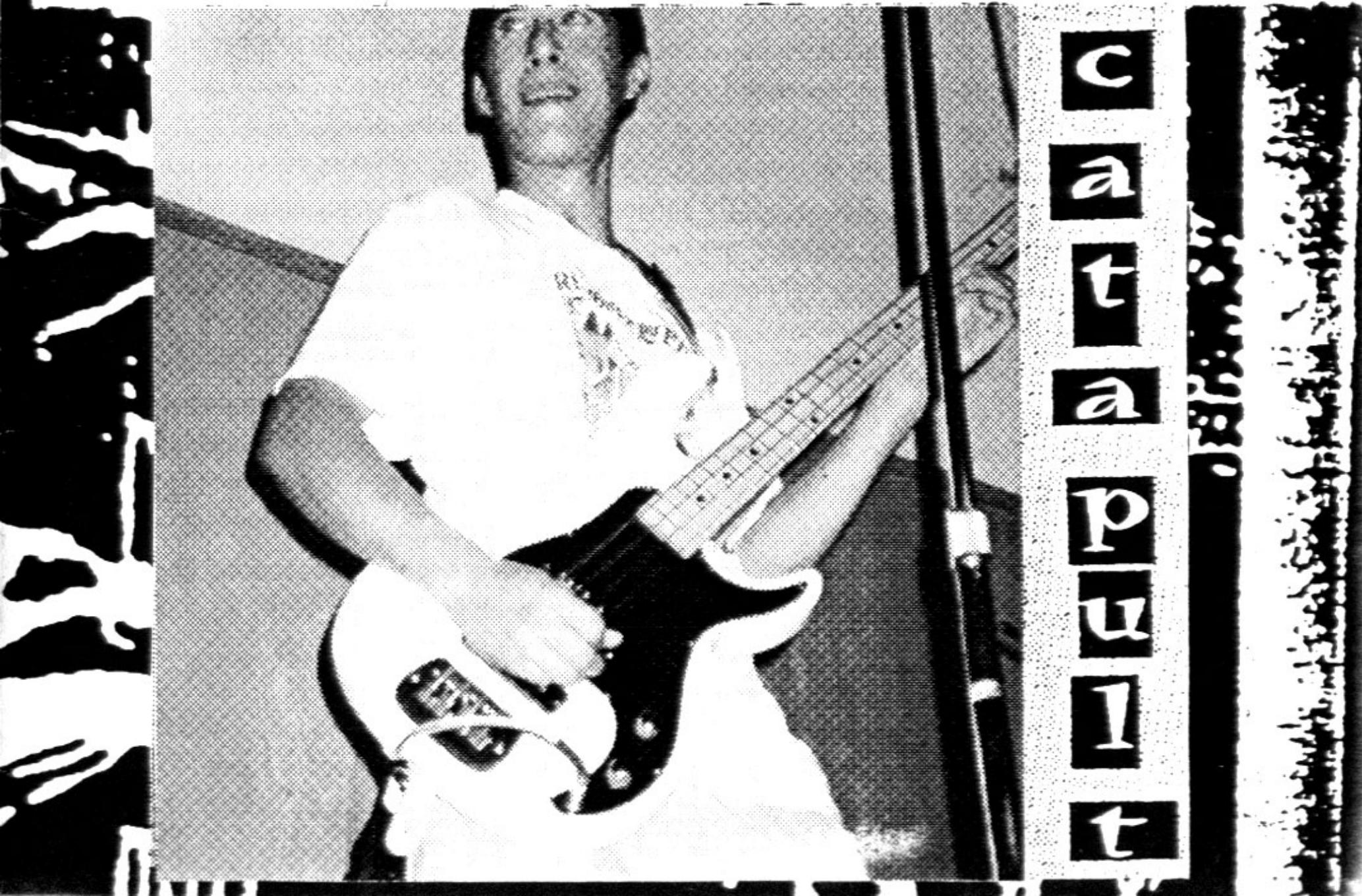
Many, many thanx go out to the following people, in no particular order- Dan Carolin, Mike/ Threadbare, Andrew, Boyde, Milo, Nathan/ Boba Fett Youth, Carissa/ Screams From Inside, Eric Weiss, John Dudeck, Dave Mandel, Craig Chapman, Eric Fortner, Davegan, Mytch/ Holiday 'zine, Norm Arenas, John Lacroix, Al Barkley, Rob Rioux, Jay/ Empathy, Jeff Dean, Emily Foley, Francisco Alegria, Ron Benway, Chris Bland, Sasha Steensen, my family, everyone that wrote since issue #1, and anyone else that has helped me out that I may have forgotten. I really couldn't have done it without your help.

Photo credits- Dan Carolin, Eric Fortner, Rob Rioux, Craig Thompson, Emily Shmidt, Jeff Dean, and Sasha Steensen.

Front cover photo of Undertow by Eric Fortner.

# LOCAL NEWS

Things have been picking up here in Vegas, although somewhat slowly, and with some reluctance, I decided to bring the local news section back. I'm trying to be as positive as I can about the current state of our scene, but believe me, it gets rather difficult sometimes. At any rate, here we go... Bucky Records has been doing well, and Boyde has a couple new releases in the works. The Boba Fett Youth LP should be out soon after you read this, and it's a doozie, so watch for it. Also rumored to be in the works is a Lickitisplit 10", but we'll have to wait and see about that one. Nathan from Boba Fett Youth is now playing second guitar in Lickitisplit, and they have also added a new bassist since the departure of their old bass player, Sean. Nathan has also been working on issue #9 of What's Up With That?!? for some time now, so you can probably count on that coming out one of these days. The Catapult/ Leapfrog Society split 7" was received fairly well by the masses, and both bands have been playing quite a few shows recently and have improved extensively. I'm not too sure what's in store for Catapult, but I don't think we'll be hearing much from Leapfrog Society any time soon, as Mark and Drew have started a little project band that, in Mark's words, is one of those "lovey-dovey" bands. Girls, be sure and watch for this one. Mark should also have a new issue of Keep Laughing out soon, and Drew is also reportedly playing in Life of Lies now as well, who have also been playing a number of shows lately too. Illicit Youth supposedly recorded a demo not too long ago, so you might want to watch for that. Tomorrow's Gone have also recorded new material, but have no plans for any future releases as of yet. Contrary to popular belief, T.G. have not broken up, but are back with yet another slightly altered line-up. Mr. Ferley was a small 'zine that surfaced for a while, and now that Matt is back from his summer vacation, it's possible we might be hearing more from him soon. As for Brillo, I haven't seen Daryll at all lately, so who knows what he's been up to. Bent Tool has been put on hold due to internal problems, mostly because one of the members mysteriously pawned most of the bands equipment. I'm not too sure if they'll be back, but I've heard rumors that someone from The Reform will be taking up duties on second guitar. As for the





almighty(?) Reform, sources tell me the band has finally decided to call it quits. Hmmn, maybe there is a god afterall. A posthumous split 7" with Bent Tool has been in the works for some time now, but if both bands are no more, I can't really see the logic behind putting that record out. Shoestring Records, who released The Reform's "Urban America" CD, are working on a compilation that will feature twenty bands, most of which are local. The Heroines have been busy lately with a revitalized spirit, and now feature Kelly Benway on vocals. Dirty Gynch have had a 7" out for quite some time now, but I have yet to hear it, so I can't comment. Fried Green and M.F.I. released a split 7" a while back, but have been relatively unheard from since. Section 8 is a new band that sports mohawks and leather jackets, so if that's your thing, you might want to check them out. Nonoxytal 9 are another new band who have stirred up quite a hubub, but I'm not quite sure why. Suckerpunch is yet another new band that I have yet to hear. There seems to be a ton of bands that have formed recently that unfortunately, have no talent whatsoever. Sure, not all punk rock bands need to know how to play their instruments, but it does help. It seems like I've left just one too many shows with a pounding headache recently, so come on people, surprise me. Another pet peave of mine is the old circle pit that seems to be mandatory at every show here in Vegas, and I just don't understand why. Maybe it's because I weigh about 140 lbs. and look like a toothpick, but the circle pit seems to cause more trouble than it's worth by excluding those not "hard" or tough enough to dance, and is usually the breeding ground for fights among the rejects of the WWF. Call me crazy, but it would be nice if everyone could have a good time together for once. The biggest problem for the Vegas scene nowadays seems to be finding a place to play. The roof of The Huntridge Theatre collapsed, and although it is reopening soon, I don't think there will be very many worthwhile shows held there. Quite a few people were putting on some pretty decent shows at the Elk's Lodge in Henderson for a while, but the \$500.00 a night rental fee is just a wee bit too steep to continue doing shows there. For now kids, it looks like the desert is our haven, so remember, be careful and don't get too crazy. The last thing our scene needs is for someone to get killed or seriously hurt at a show. I think I pretty much covered everything worth mentioning, but if you're in a band or have something you need to say, drop me a line and I'll see what I can do. Until next time...



walleye





# CHURCHWARD



# THREADBARE



Threadbare are an awesome band who express pure, raw emotion like no other band I've heard yet, and their "Feeling Older Faster" LP is absolutely incredible. Prior to doing this interview, I had read only one other interview with these guys, and at the time, Threadbare remained somewhat of a mystery to me. For that reason, I was particularly nervous about talking to these guys, and while I think this interview could have turned out better, I do feel that some valid points were made. I talked to Mike, their drummer, over the phone earlier this year, and the following conversation took place.

**HELP- Why the name Threadbare? Is there any particular meaning behind it?**

**MIKE-** The word threadbare means worn or tattered to a thread. Like clothing, something like that. We just kind of felt that the style of music and the way we feel with things, that we all feel kind of run down like that. No deep meanings or anything, but a name that sounded kind of cool.

**HELP- I've read that you guys aren't trying to convey a certain type of message, but what are some of the thoughts behind your music?**

**MIKE-** Basically just frustration of having to deal with everyday type of things, and the pressure put upon people our age. Brian writes all the lyrics, and we really don't have much input into the lyrics, but he seems to say how we feel pretty well. A lot of it's just really personal. It has a lot to do with struggling to get through everyday. It seems to focus a lot on negative things, but I think we all have hope and that's one thing that we try to get across. We're not just totally pissed off and angry all the time. There is a solution.

**HELP- I definitely felt a lot of frustration.**

MIKE- I think the music definitely gets that point across as well. The thing is with this band, it's like we spend so much time doing things other than the band, that's what drives the band. We all work and a couple guys go to school. That's nothing any different than anybody else, and we're not saying that we go through so much more than anybody else. People would probably say that we might have things kind of easy. What we want to do is play music, and with the pressure that's put upon us by having to go to school and having to get a job and spending more time with that than things that you really want to do, I think that's where the anger and frustration comes out. It's been really hard to do what we want to do, and we spend the majority of our time doing things we really don't like at all.

**HELP- How do you feel about all the militancy in hardcore these days?**

MIKE- Like straight-edge? Militancy as in what?

**HELP- As far as statements like "change or be destroyed."**

MIKE- I think it's ridiculous. That just perpetuates senseless violence and a very macho, tough guy, "better than you" type of feeling. That's the impression I get. It totally excludes people that might be into the music. If you don't look the way they do or act the way they do, you just get totally pushed aside. It's like music for a selective group of people, and I don't understand why you would only want to talk to a certain group of people.

**HELP- What about violence? Do you believe it has any beneficial purpose?**

MIKE- That's a tough question. I don't, not in my life, I guess. I'm not really into politics and I'm not very well read on things like that, but from what I know, it's never achieved positive things. In my life, I've never perpetuated any kind of violence or acted out in that way or anything. That can lead to a lot of political issues, things like war and stuff like that. Like I said, I'm not that well read, and I guess I don't feel like I know enough to make a real statement on that. In my own life, on a personal level, violence is completely uncalled for. I think everybody else that's in the band feels the same way.

**HELP- Do you think that the hardcore scene, in general, is a sexist scene?**

MIKE- I don't think it is, but I think it can definitely be pictured that way if you're not involved with it. If you're not right inside, I think it can definitely be seen that way, but so can every other scene. I think everything is dominated by males.

**HELP- Do you think that hardcore is a movement?**

MIKE- I don't know, that's kind of a weird question. It's always called the "hardcore movement," but it's moving in so many different directions and so is everything else. Everything is a movement. It depends on what you're moving towards. You could say it's a movement towards whatever. I think everything is. I think metal's a movement. (laughter) I think everything's a movement, you know what I mean?

**HELP- Does anyone in the band subscribe to any religion, and what are your feelings about organized religion?**

MIKE- Nobody subscribes to any religion, really. We've all been brought up Catholic, and I don't think I learned enough about it. Back when I went to church classes, like confirmation and stuff, it didn't really have anything to do with the bible or the scriptures or anything like that. It was a very general, "be nice" type of thing. They really didn't teach that much having to do with history, and I kind lost interest. When the whole krishna thing started, we were all interested in that. A lot of people, just right away, totally tore it down, and people felt totally threatened by it. We were just interested, and we would read the books. I respect a lot about it, but I couldn't see myself becoming a devotee or anything. I think there's definitely good and bad points about it. I think more good than bad. Brian, our singer, is still reading a lot about it and checking it out. Some people tagged us as a krishna band, and I don't understand where that came from. It's had an influence on Brian, I suppose.

HELP- There's good points about it (krishna), but there are certain aspects I can't believe.

MIKE- I find it kind of hard to believe stories about cartoon-like characters, you know what I mean?

HELP- The four armed blue guy? (laughter)

MIKE- Right, it's just so hard to grasp onto. I'm not saying it's not true and it didn't happen, it's just kind of hard for me to live my life around something like that.

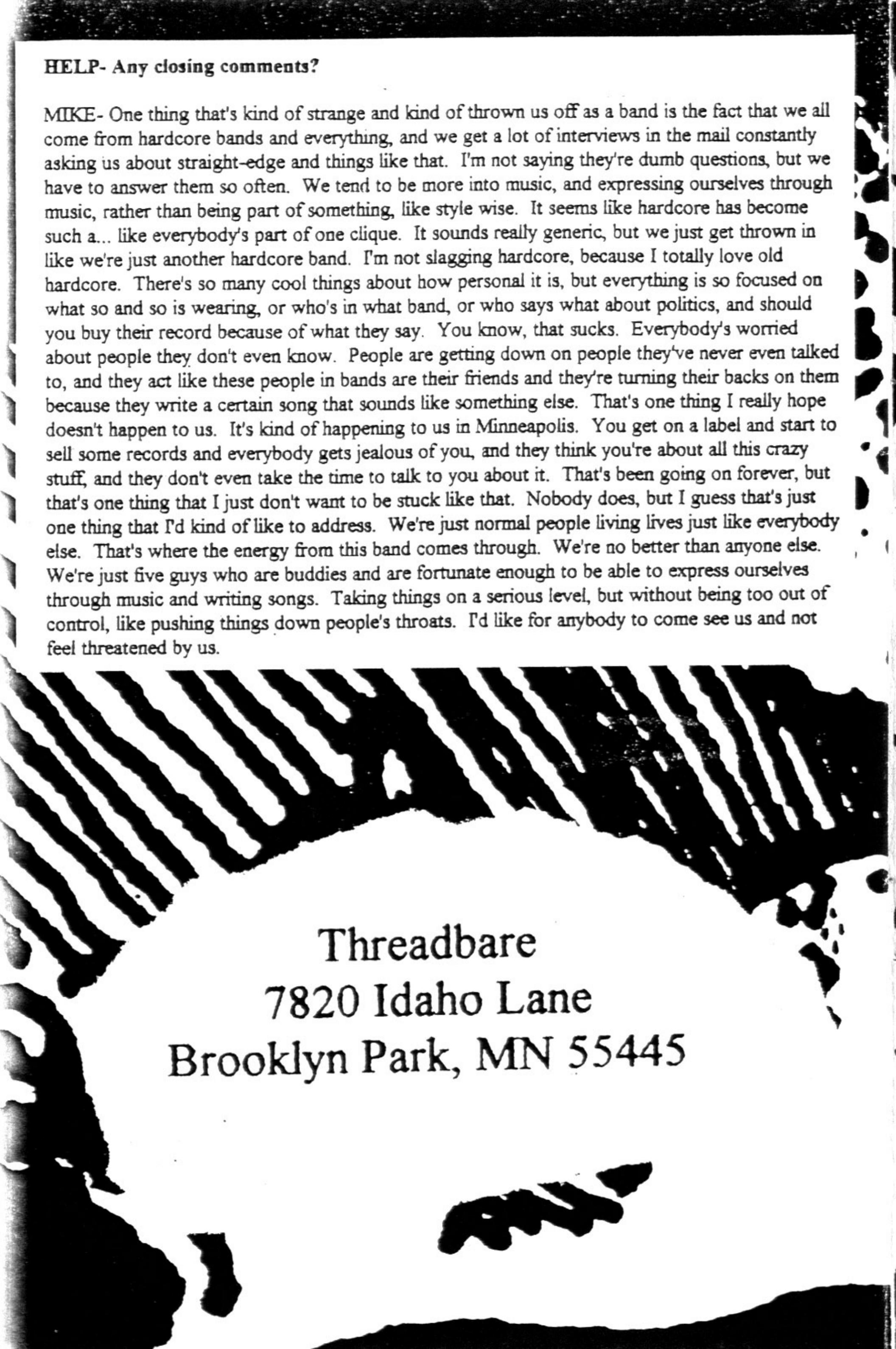
HELP- If you could meet one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?

MIKE- I don't know. (long pause) I think it would be cool to meet somebody like Rollins, who's lived that life. I mean, I've read his books and listened to his CD's, and I could just listen to him for hours. In a way, I kind of feel like I have met him, just by reading his books. I don't know, that's tough. There's so many people that could be so interesting that you could name. I guess if I really thought about it, I could probably name a lot of people.

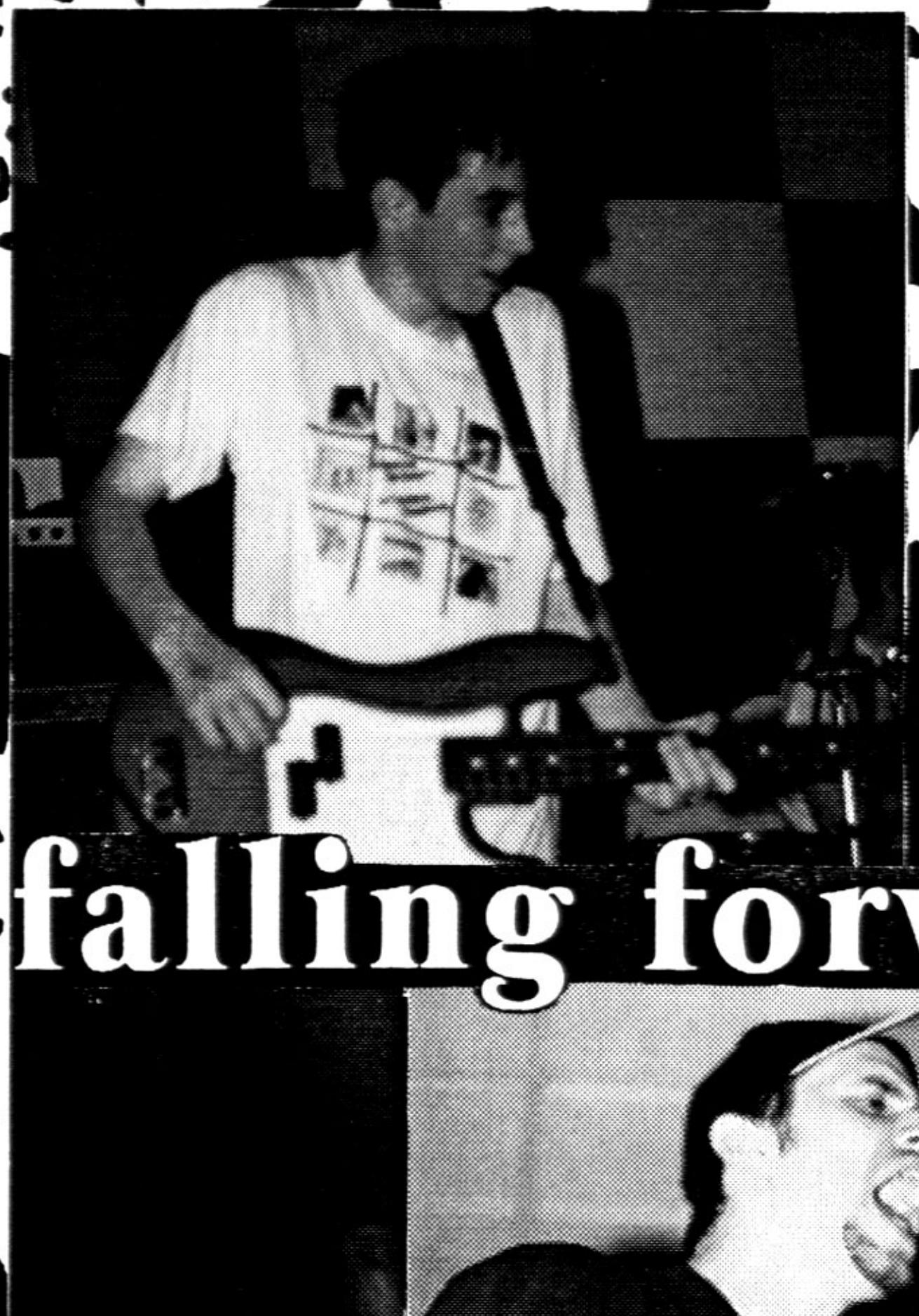


**HELP- Any closing comments?**

MIKE- One thing that's kind of strange and kind of thrown us off as a band is the fact that we all come from hardcore bands and everything, and we get a lot of interviews in the mail constantly asking us about straight-edge and things like that. I'm not saying they're dumb questions, but we have to answer them so often. We tend to be more into music, and expressing ourselves through music, rather than being part of something, like style wise. It seems like hardcore has become such a... like everybody's part of one clique. It sounds really generic, but we just get thrown in like we're just another hardcore band. I'm not slagging hardcore, because I totally love old hardcore. There's so many cool things about how personal it is, but everything is so focused on what so and so is wearing, or who's in what band, or who says what about politics, and should you buy their record because of what they say. You know, that sucks. Everybody's worried about people they don't even know. People are getting down on people they've never even talked to, and they act like these people in bands are their friends and they're turning their backs on them because they write a certain song that sounds like something else. That's one thing I really hope doesn't happen to us. It's kind of happening to us in Minneapolis. You get on a label and start to sell some records and everybody gets jealous of you, and they think you're about all this crazy stuff, and they don't even take the time to talk to you about it. That's been going on forever, but that's one thing that I just don't want to be stuck like that. Nobody does, but I guess that's just one thing that I'd kind of like to address. We're just normal people living lives just like everybody else. That's where the energy from this band comes through. We're no better than anyone else. We're just five guys who are buddies and are fortunate enough to be able to express ourselves through music and writing songs. Taking things on a serious level, but without being too out of control, like pushing things down people's throats. I'd like for anybody to come see us and not feel threatened by us.



Threadbare  
7820 Idaho Lane  
Brooklyn Park, MN 55445

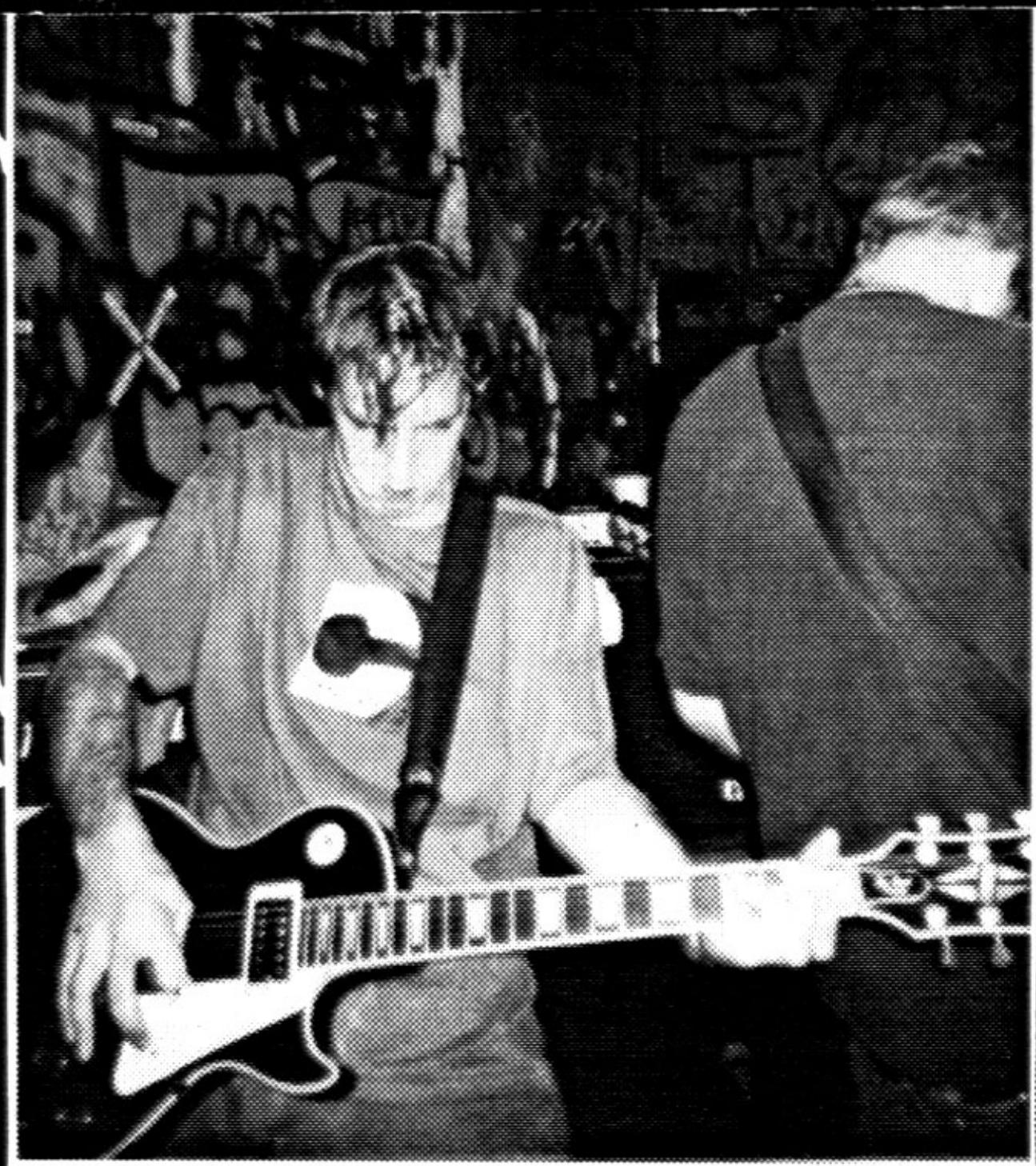


**falling forward**



**cadle**

# OUTSPOKEN



# BOBA FETT YOUTH



With a name like Boba Fett Youth, you can't help but wonder, and yes, the wackiness goes far beyond the moniker in this case. While I'll be the first to admit that I wasn't all that fond of their demo or 7", these guys have really pulled things together in the past few months, and their debut LP, which just might be out by the time you read this, should earn them the respect they have worked so hard to earn. These guys are as corny in person as they appear here on paper, and are probably four of the nicest guys I have ever met. Read on and delve into the minds of Boba Fett Youth.

**HELP- For those of us who don't know, why the name Boba Fett Youth?**

**NATHAN-** To make lots of money and cash in on Star Wars.

**ANDREW-** We're trying to draw publicity so Lucasfilm will sue us, and that way we can draw more fans. It's all a strategic PR move in the long run. We made a list of names, and we had all these goofy ass names and then...

**BOYDE-** All these Star Wars names came up.

**NATHAN-** Chewbacca.

**ANDREW-** No there was only like one Star Wars name.

**BOYDE-** No there was a whole bunch we came up with, but you said one and we just laughed our asses off and that was it, Boba Fett.

**ANDREW-** Just for the record, we were into Star Wars before Star Wars was cool, dude.

**BOYDE-** We're OG Star Wars.

**ANDREW-** Yeah, we're OG. I actually used to hang out with Ice Cube and watch Return of the Jedi, that's how OG I am.

HELP- What would you say influences your music more, the force or the power of the dark side?

BOYDE- See, that's the cool thing about being a bounty hunter is that you can go either way.

ANDREW- Yeah, whoever pays us the most, but we haven't got paid yet.

BOYDE- Yeah, we always get gipped out of our credits.

ANDREW- We owe hella to the bartender at the creature cantina. If we like popped our heads in there, we owe him so much money, he'd kill us.

BOYDE- We always get gipped by those bands, like that Mos Eisley band.

HELP- I've noticed you guys have a bunch of new songs. What are some of your new songs about?

ANDREW- I didn't write lyrics yet, I just say shit.

BOYDE- He just fictitiously comes up with stuff.

ANDREW- Ok, the first song on the new album is a new one that's called "The Day," and it's kind of ironic because it's like an anti-punk song. The full name of the song is "The Day Punk Rock Ran Out of Things to Say," which it did a long time ago. It's like everything is recycled and no one is saying anything new, and it's just kind of old. So that's what that song is about, but it's not like... I mean I don't pretend to have any answers. It seems kind of weird because the more I think about it, the more I really don't like punks or punk rock.

BOYDE- We have this other song, it's about...

ANDREW- Hey, I'm not done yet!

BOYDE- No this song is about how much Andrew talks about his songs.

ANDREW- Well, it's a very deep and meaningful song. I talk about the chaos and obliqueness in my life, and I look in the mirror and put my fist in it. You gotta stay hard man. (laughter) It's just like weird because it's like the more I get into punk, the less I like it. It's strange, it comes down to a few bands that I really like. I'm getting jaded.

HELP- I know a couple of you are vegetarians, and one of your new songs deals with the ridicule you receive because of your diet. Would you like to elaborate?

ANDREW- Oh shit, I eat meat now, dude.

BOYDE- We forgot to tell you. It's called "I Kick Vegetarian's Asses" now.

ANDREW- Yeah, it's called "This Protein Shake Drinkin', Egg Eatin' Motherfucker's Gonna' Kick Your Ass." No, that was kind of indirectly aimed at my dad. I still go over to their house sometimes, I don't live at home anymore. I'd go over there and my dad would always be making cracks and stuff. Like I'd cut the grass for him and stuff, and he'd say, "You don't even need a lawnmower, why don't you just go out there and graze." You know, I kind of took it with like a good humor, but after awhile I got more and more frustrated. It just gets really annoying, because I hear people making jokes all the time.

BOYDE- So the song's about Andrew killing his dad.

ANDREW- Yeah, I did. I killed him just to be true to my words, you know. (laughter)

NATHAN- Everything's got to be a joke.

ANDREW- I use to take it in stride and not be totally uptight, but there's like a line you have to draw where you gotta speak up and state your convictions, otherwise people are going to make jokes all the time. So if Nate makes another joke about it, I'm going to kill him and eat his flesh. Oh shit, that's not vegetarian, is it? I'll eat your clothes, dude. It's a rallying point for all oppressed vegetarians.

HELP- I was told to ask about "Yearnin' For Mandalore?"



# BOBA FETT YOUTH



ANDREW- Well, Mandalore is the propted planet that Boba Fett comes from.

NATHAN- Maybe.

BOYDE- Boba Fett's a big mystery.

NATHAN- That's where he got his clothes. They don't know if that's where he came from or not.

ANDREW- He has Mandalorian warrior armor, but they don't know if he's like OG Mandalorian warrior, or if he just like got one at a thrift store.

BOYDE- I think we're going to find out a lot of shit about that in the new movies.

HELP- Who is "Make-up Mike?"

BOYDE- He's a kid that hangs out at the cafes in Vegas. He hangs out on "Irony Street."

ANDREW- He's this really strange, ostracized kid who always wore make-up. I don't know if you could classify him as a real transvestite. He was kind of like androgenous dressing. He'd wear like a lot of lacy things and everything, but a lot of people would just cap on him and just make fun of him and stuff like that.

BOYDE- He also died.

NATHAN- Or that's a rumor.

BOYDE- Yeah, that's a rumor. Who knows?

ANDREW- He was just kind of an oppressed kid that inspired me to write a song about him because he stood up for himself.

BOYDE- He was a pretty decent character.

ANDREW- Yeah, he was really strange. It's just his mind was kind of tweaked by drugs. It was like he had the courage to be himself, and he kind of knew going into it that he was going to get fucked with. But he did it anyway, so I really respected that.

HELP- You guys seem to joke around a lot. I wonder, do you have a serious side?

BOYDE- Our drum machine that won't speak.

ANDREW- The way I see it, I have serious ideas, But I try to express them in a funny way, you know? You gotta expose people to ideas without alienating them, so it's like you gotta kind of package it in a funny way. And I'm naturally a funny guy, right? (silence) Maybe not. (laughter) I suspect, it's kind of weird, I think like when we play live, you know a lot of people think we're goofballs and stuff and no one really knows what the lyrics are. But when this full length comes out, if you read the lyrics, they're pretty serious.

BOYDE- They actually really suck, I mean, uh, they're really good.

NATHAN- I've heard they're really bitter.

ANDREW- Yeah, so it'll be kind of surprising. The reason I can be funny about it is because I really don't take it all that seriously. It's like I'm going to do what I can to change things, but I'm not going to cry over it if it doesn't happen.

HELP- What do you think of the scene here in Vegas, or the lack there of one?

BOYDE- I think there's a great scene here in Vegas.

NATHAN- I think it's getting a lot better.

BOYDE- Yeah, I think it's totally fun. People fucking slack on it all the time, and you go out into the desert and no one's fucking there. The people that are out there are having as much fun as they possibly can have, or you know, any all ages show, everyone goes out and has as much fun as they possibly can have. There's a few dickheads that spoil it for everyone else, just like any other town. Whatever town you go to, you're going to fucking hate it if you have that kind of attitude. If you're here, and you fucking like it, then that's the type of attitude you have. You're pretty positive about things.

NATHAN- There's a lot of people that are getting pretty positive right now.

BOYDE- Yeah, and that's a good thing.

NATHAN- A lot of people are putting out records, like Dirty Gynch just put out their 7".

ANDREW- The thing that bothers me, it's like...

BOYDE- Ok, here comes the critical analysis.

NATHAN- No Andrew, we're not talking about the bar scene.

ANDREW- That's the kind of thing, it almost is a bar scene in a way.

BOYDE- Here comes the positive side of us.

ANDREW- It's kind of cool, on one hand, you **see** the same faces there all the time. It kind of builds this kind of community spirit and all that stuff. Sometimes I see the same faces there, and it's just like another party to them. Sometimes I think there's some more serious ideals at stake here and it's not just another party, but sometimes it is, which kind of bums me out.

NATHAN- Where isn't it? Go to Berkeley or New York or wherever and it's just a big party. There's a few people doing something.

ANDREW- No, I wouldn't say that. When I was at Gilman I got the sense, and it may be inaccurate because I've only been there once, but there were more... even when we went to the Fugazi show at that naval thing, the people that weren't involved, were involved in a way because they like appreciated it. It was at least that way at Gilman. Everyone that was there was like...

NATHAN- It was the same ratio there as it would be here.

ANDREW- But I mean the crowd at Gilman was equal to a good show at the Elk's Lodge, but proportionately they had like a higher number of people who were like into it.

BOYDE- You also gotta consider that there isn't shit to do in Vegas, so the fucking people that end up showing up at the punk shows are like fucking jocks and shit like that.

**HELP- If you could ask yourselves one question in this interview, what would it be?**

BOYDE- Why am I hanging out with all these losers?

NATHAN- (pointing to Andrew) Who let this guy in?

**HELP- What would you want someone who hears your band to come away with?**

ANDREW- Herpes.

NATHAN- A record, a t-shirt, a bunch of stickers, an empty wallet.

ANDREW- Have fun.

BOYDE- Yeah, have fun. That's all we look for.

ANDREW- We're not trying to like change anyone's mind or anything.

NATHAN- A person should leave our show drunk.

BOYDE- Yeah, at the least.

NATHAN- Lance is leaving the room.

**HELP- What can we expect from Boba Fett Youth in the future?**

ANDREW- A sixteen song full length. We don't have a name for it yet, do we?

BOYDE- No, I guess it's self titled. I didn't give Greg a name to write on it. It'll be out at the end of September or the beginning of October, depending on how fast things get done. We're done recording.

ANDREW- There's one song off the demo tape, and all the other one's are kind of new.

NATHAN- CD, tape, and record.

MILO- And eight-tracks and 78's.

ANDREW- Stone tablets.

**HELP- Any closing comments?**

NATHAN- May the force be with you. (everyone moans)

Bucky Records, P.O. Box 72671, Las Vegas, NV 89170

# Still Life



# Reviews

Ok, some of these reviews are a bit dated, and yes, I know reviews tend to become somewhat monotonous and boring, but I'd really like to open up some minds, especially around here, to some new sights and sounds. Few of these records and 'zines, if any, ever manage to find their way to Vegas, and the majority of kids here eat up the latest Epitaph and Fat Wreckords releases that are shoved down their throats without question, refusing to look any further than what sits directly in front of their noses. If you want something more, then please read on, otherwise go listen to some NOFX and pick your nose or something.

Anti #6- Anti (formerly Anti-Matter) is definitely one of the cleanest and most well put together 'zines I have ever seen, and with another incredible effort, I can easily say that I have yet to be let down. Norm's latest issue features interviews with Sick of it All, Garden Variety, Snapcase, and Shelter, along with write-ups on Cause for Alarm and Samuel. A whole slew of reviews and a Ressurection/ Shades Apart split 7" round this jewel out, giving the reader one treat after another. Get well soon, ok Norm? (Norm Arenas, 151 First Ave. Suite 107, NY, NY 10003)

Autumn Leaf Dance "Learn What is Taught" CD- CTW has become notoriously known for their awful computer-generated layouts, and unfortunately, this release marks a new all time low for the label. Whoever did the layout this time around really over did it, and honestly, it hurts to look at the booklet included with the CD. As far as the music goes, Autumn Leaf Dance play long, monotonous, alternative influenced songs that have little to no tempo change and very little direction, with female vocals that do little to support the effort. I suppose this does have it's bright spots, but they truly are few and far between. (Conquer The World, P.O. Box 40282, Redford, MI 48240)

Beltaine "s/t" 7"- Beltaine play alternative influenced rock that I find boring and uninteresting. It seems like more and more bands are opting for this post-hardcore sound, which is cool, but I just can't get into this record. Everything is just too overdone here, which I think only takes away from an already unimpressive record. Nice packaging, though. (Watermark, P.O. Box 1046, Philadelphia, PA 19105)

Chokehold "Content With Dying" CD- While I thought Chokehold's last 7", which is included here, was one of the better SXE records to come out in quite some time, I can't say I like this very much. Except for "Conditioned", a song about cops that comes off completely ridiculous, the lyrics are again near perfection, but the production is rather muddy and the music generally lacks the enthusiasm of their previous work, not to mention the samples between every song were a bit much. I guess fourteen songs of slow, bottom heavy hardcore become just a little too monotonous for me, but at any rate, I still think Chokehold is one of the more intelligent SXE bands that exists today. (Bloodlink, P.O. Box 252, New Gretna, NJ 08224)

Contageon "Dioroma" CD- This band features ex-members of Four Walls Falling and Askance, and have a sound somewhat reminiscent of Askance, mostly due to the unique sounding vocals. Musically, this is kind of hard to describe, but again I am reminded of Askance, perhaps with more melody and progression. I really liked Contageon's articulate lyrics, which are well written and expressed somewhat objectively. I can't honestly say I was completely won over by this, but I liked it nonetheless. (Watermark)

Copper "Drag Queen" LP- I really enjoyed Copper's debut 7", which is included here, so I definitely had high hopes for this. Well, Copper have easily managed to put together an awesome follow up to an already incredible 7", with nine rocking, alternative influenced songs. Those beautiful female vocals are still intact, but show a wider range and more power at times. Besides the Morrissey cover, I really can't find anything I don't like here, and after hearing this, I think I want to fall in love again. (Equal Vision, 111 W. 24th St. 6th Floor, NY, NY 10011)

Current "Final" 7"- Current was easily one of the most talented and original bands I've ever heard, and it's rather unfortunate that they've decided to call it quits. This four song 7" marks the end for a great band, and it serves as quite a fitting epitaph. These songs continue in the same noisy, "emo" influenced vein as their awesome "Coliseum" LP, but surprisingly, the lyrics make a little more sense this time around. Current was a band that always left me asking questions, one of which now being, why did this band have to break up? (Council, 4710 Williamson, Dearborn, MI 48126)

Culture "Born of You" CD- This is probably one of the better releases from CTW in some time, but that's really not saying much. Culture play competent, metal influenced, SXE hardcore with shouted vocals, but for some reason, I think I've heard this all before. Surprisingly, the packaging does show improvement from previous releases on CTW, but stills looks a bit too computer generated for my taste. Everything about this release seemed kind of generic to me, but for the most part, Culture can easily hang with most bands of this genre. (Conquer The World)

Damnation a.d. "No More Dreams of Happy Endings" CD- I have to admit, I've become rather bored with the handfuls of metal clone bands around today, but this CD has provided me with a much needed slap in the face. For the most part, Damnation a.d. choose to keep things slow with heavy, low-tuned guitars, but there are also some hectic, noisy parts where I'm not too sure what's going on. The bellowed vocals are incredibly harsh, and the painfully expressed, personal lyrics are well written and moving. Undoubtedly, this is metal, but besides "Funeral March", which is an over indulgent instrumental that clocks in at nearly ten minutes long, there is more than enough talent and originality here to hold my interest. (Jade Tree, 2310 Kennwynn Rd., Wilmington, DE 19810)

Doughnuts "Age of the Circle" CD- The whole idea behind this is a novel one indeed- a SXE band comprised of five very angry females who play ultra-heavy, metal-style hardcore, that for the most part, is very competent. The musicianship has improved since their "Equalize Nature" CD, especially the drums, but the unique sounding vocals still tend to get on my nerves at times. I don't know, I guess metal just hasn't been my cup of tea lately, and Doughnuts are definitely "metal up your ass." If you dig that metallic crunch that has become so familiar to SXE hardcore these days, then you should get this, because I guarantee you won't be disappointed. (Victory, P.O. Box 146546, Chicago, IL 60614)

1134 "Nothing" 7"- This band features ex-members of Function, and sound quite a bit like the aforementioned band, with maybe more of a metal influence. I'm not really sure what else to say about this, as the music rocks, but lacks any real direction, and the lyrics are really somewhat vague and seem to follow the same path. 1134 have definitely left some room for improvement with this record, but I like this band, so unlike Function, I can only hope they put out more than this one 7". By the way, I like the tricky name. (Ammunition, P.O. Box 461, Bellflower, CA 90707)

Enkindel "s/t" 7"- Wow, what an improvement. Enkindel have added a new bassist and drummer since their debut 7", and have really pulled things together. At times this reminds me of later Endpoint, though not quite as rockin'. The vocals tend to drag along at points, but if Enkindel's next release shows as much improvement as this record does, it should be pretty darn good. (Initial, P.O. Box 251145, W. Bloomfield, MI 48325)

Extent #5- John's last issue was featured in MRR's "Zine of the Month" column not too long ago, and with good reason. Extent #5 features interviews with Shades Apart and Deadguy, along with a bunch of reviews, a few articles, a letters section, an e-mail list, and a rather informative, do-it-yourself tutorial on how to silkscreen. John seems bent on making Extent one heck of a 'zine, and by the look of his latest issue, I can safely say he's already succeeded. (John Lacroix, 148 Hillside St., Boston, MA 02120)

Falling Forward/ Metroschifter "Acoustic" 7"- Hmmn, I guess this is hardcore's answer to MTV unplugged. I was awfully skeptical about this before I heard it, but both bands manage to pull this off somewhat successfully, although Falling Forward is a bit more convincing. There was no insert, which automatically earns this 7" a demerit, but Metroshifter does an Endpoint cover, which somewhat makes up for that. I still wonder about this on occasion, but this was a neat idea that held my interest. (Initial)

Flagman "Tone" 7"- The layout on this is awful, but fortunately, the music more than makes up for that. These final two songs are a bit more progressive than their previous efforts, but maintain a melodic, droning approach that isn't too far from their 7" on Consequence. There is no lyric sheet, which is always a disappointment, but we are instead offered a Flagman trading card, which somewhat makes up for the loss. All in all, an impressive ending for an underrated band. (Low Orbit, 9 La Baia Dr., Loveladies, NJ 08008)

Grade "...And Such is Progress" LP- Ok, I can't say I was all too impressed with Grade after hearing their half of the Grade/ Believe split CD, but my jaw now hangs agape after hearing their latest release. This one is kind of hard to describe, but believe me, in this case that's a good thing. Grade combine nice, melodic music with somewhat sung vocals that will suddenly change to a harder sound with harsh, screaming vocals, that I guess I would call a pretty ugly sound (pun intended). This is one of the more original sounding records I've heard in a long time, and I would really recommend giving this a try. (Capsule, P.O. Box 970922, Ypsilanti, MI 48197)

Hardware #7- Hardware is easily one of the most well put together 'zines around today, and a 'zine with a rather consistent track record to date as well. Issue #7 is a bit thicker than previous issues, which I'm definitely not complaining about, and I guess you could call this issue the NYHC issue, because inside you'll find interviews with the Cro-Mags, Sick of it All, and Leeway, as well as a bunch of reviews and the usual editor's opinions pages. If there's one thing that Dave and Brett have learned from their many years involved in the hardcore scene, that's how to put together an awesome 'zine, and I would definitely suggest checking Hardware out. (Dave Koenig, 216 West Munsell Ave., Linden, NJ 07036-4426)

Ignite "Call On My Brothers" CD- I'm probably the furthest thing there is from "old school", so this is probably the closest I'll come to feeling any of that late 80's spirit. Ignite play a brand of speedy, straight ahead hardcore that is somewhat reminiscent of early Uniform Choice at times, and with the recent influx of bands opting for the open E crunch and screaming about the vegan "revolution", I honestly think this couldn't have come out at a better time. My only complaint is that compared to previous releases, the vocals are more sung instead of screamed, but either way, the vocalist can definitely hold his own. Seeing as how it's 1995 and not 1988, this shouldn't go unnoticed. (Conversion, P.O. Box 5213, Huntington Beach, CA 92615)

Impetus Inter "Youth Jihad" 7"- Impetus Inter is one heck of a name, so this had my interest right from the start. This 7" features three songs of frantic, noisy hardcore, with vocals that alternate between screaming and near mumbling. The insert proved quite a read, although the lyrics didn't manage to get printed, and you should check this out if only for that reason alone. Oh, impetus- an impelling force; inter- to place in a grave. (Bloodlink)

Lifetime "Hello Bastards" LP- Lifetime has been one of my favorite bands ever since their debut 7" on New Age, and guess what, they still are. These guys seem to improve with every record they put out, that being the case here, although this seems somewhat "punker" than their previous releases. Really, everything about this is near perfection, with upbeat, melodic music, and awesome lyrics like, "Why find a nice way to tell you you suck, I hate your guts, you act so boring, and if you don't stop with those looks I'm gonna poke you in the eye." Every once in a while I hear a record that just plain makes me feel happy to be alive, and I haven't been this happy for quite some time. (Jade Tree)

Los Crudos/ Spitboy LP- While I can't say I've ever been a huge fan of either of these bands musically, lyrically they are probably two of the most important bands that exist today. For those of you who don't already know, Los Crudos play raging, early eighties style, political hardcore with lyrics sung in Spanish, while Spitboy play a style of noisy, angry hardcore not far from Crudos, with lyrics covering gender issues and other various topics. The layout on this is exceptional, and there is a nice booklet included with the record that contains translations for Crudo's lyrics and explanations for Spitboy's lyrics. If you have yet to hear either of these bands, this would probably be a really good place to start. (Ebullition, P.O. Box 680, Goleta, CA 93116)

Policy of 3 "American Woodworking" 7"- Policy of 3 seems to be one of those bands that never quite get the attention they most certainly deserve, and I don't understand why. I was thoroughly impressed with their "Dead Dog Summer" LP, and the three songs featured here continue in the same rockin', "emo" vein. Lyrically, this band expresses intelligence and sincerity, and their music reflects talent and originality. With two very solid releases under their belt, I don't understand why more people aren't talking about this band. (Old Glory, P.O. Box 1814, Battleboro. VT 05302)

Rumpshaker #3- Rumpshaker #2 was great, and Eric's latest issue is no exception. This third chapter in the Rump saga features interviews with Falling Forward, Bloodlet, Slayer, Deadguy, and Phallacy, as well as an occasional article, some reviews, and his mom's recipe for vegan chocolate cake, which I have yet to make. It appears as if Eric has a genuine love for hardcore, and if his efforts continue to be as solid as this, Rumpshaker will remain one of my favorite 'zines for quite some time. (Eric Weiss, 72-38 65 Place, Glendale Queens, NY 11385)

Second Nature #3- Second Nature is a rather slick and thick 'zine that combines hardcore and skateboarding, not much unlike those awesome old issues of Thrasher. This 'zine has improved leaps and bounds since the first issue, and Dan and co. latest effort features interviews with Metroshifter, Jeremy and Jonas Wray, Youth Brigade, Split Lip, Kareem Campbell, and the ever so infamous Dan O'Mahony. As if that wasn't enough, a ton of reviews and a bunch of quality photos also fill the numerous pages included here, so get this already. (Second Nature, P.O. Box 11543, Kansas City, MO 64138)

Sevenyears war 7"- I had heard quite a few good things about this 7", and I guess I can say this somewhat lived up to my expectations. Sevenyears war play raw, chunky, driving hardcore that is used as a vehicle for intelligent, politically oriented lyrics. There is definitely something about this 7" that seems rather honest and pure, and from the writing included in the layout, it's probably safe to say these guys know what they're talking about and mean what they say. You should check this out, because not only is Sevenyears war a competent band musically, but you might be inspired or learn something as well. (John Brown, P.O. Box 1105, Burlington, VT 05402)

Singlefileline 7"- Singlefileline offer the listener two rather interesting songs, to say the least. "Selfsame" alternates between quiet, melodic music with sung vocals, and a more raging, "emo" sound with heavier music and screamed vocals. "Engine #9", on the other hand, is an instrumental that incorporates the use of a flute. I don't know, I suppose this was fun the first time around, but I don't think I'll be listening to this again any time soon. (Bloodlink)

Snapcase "Steps" 7"- After the release of their "Lookingglasself" LP, Snapcase became one of the most talked about bands in hardcore. The three songs included here continue in the same trademark, groove oriented vein that made this band so popular, but really show more direction than anything this band has released yet. Lyrically, the writing has improved leaps and bounds, but the themes remain introspective and personal. My only complaint is that there is only three songs, because I definitely want more. (Victory)

Split Lip "Fate's Got a Driver" LP- I was admittedly skeptical about this after hearing the "Union Town" 7" included with Anti-Matter #5, but I have truly been reassured. Really, this still reminds me a little of Pearl Jam at times, and the songs have definitely taken on more of a rock influence, but it seems to work here. I was stubborn at first, but these guys are great musicians, and combined with heartfelt vocals and some of the most moving lyrics I've read, I'd have to say this has won me over with time. I did think the Traci Chapman cover was a bit much, but otherwise, Split Lip have put together another incredible, tear-jerking album that couldn't have come at a better time in my life. (Doghouse, P.O. Box 8946, Toledo, OH 43623)

Still Life "Slow Children at Play" 8"- I never thought Still Life could top their awesome "From Angry Heads With Skyward Eyes" 2xLP, but I guess I was wrong. With a tighter sound and a better production, Still Life churn out three more songs of sheer beauty. The combination of melodic, ultra-emotional music and poetic, personal style lyrics put together here have easily won me over again, and honestly, I have yet to hear a song by this band that I don't like. Few bands, if any, manage to evoke and reflect the feelings I feel like Still Life does, and I really doubt if a more honest and sincere band exists. (Rhetoic, P.O. Box, WI 53701)

Strain "Cataract/ Turning the Tide" 7"- While I can't say I've really enjoyed anything Strain has released up until now, I find myself strangely attracted to this 7". What we have here is two songs of self-described "heavy as fuck hardcore fueled by double SG guitar action," and I'd have to agree that's a pretty accurate description. A friend of mine saw this band live not too long ago, and now swears that these guys mean business. From the sound of this record, I'd say Strain doesn't mess around, and I think that's why I like this. (Heartfirst)

Tension Building #2- I wasn't all too impressed with the first issue of Tension Building, but Steve has made a move to newsprint and cleaned up his layout considerably. His latest issue features interviews with Autumn, Bloodlet, and Damnation a.d., alongside a few reviews and some much improved writing. I was extremely happy to see that Steve cleared up his opinion on the idiotic essay in favor of hardline that he printed last issue, and all in all, I liked Tension Building #2 quite a bit. (Steve Lucuski, 429 Osborne Ave., Morrisville, PA 19067)

Threadbare "Feeling Older Faster" LP- After their awesome 7" on Watermark, Threadbare are back with six new songs that are nothing short of incredible. These songs tend to be somewhat more experimental than their 7", with "Confessional" being an acoustic instrumental, but for the most part, the harsh, screaming vocals and aggressive, frantic music that made this band stand out so much are still intact. For some reason, I constantly hear this band compared to 108, and while I can kind of see the comparison, I like this band so much more, mostly because I can almost entirely relate to the emotion expressed here. Threadbare have combined great musicianship with an incredible amount of emotion to make another outstanding record, no doubt about it. (Doghouse)

Undertow "Control"- After a short break-up, Undertow are back, and I couldn't be happier. What we have here are four new songs of heavy, driving, desperate, and emotional hardcore that are quite moving both lyrically and musically, with vocals that are right on the money, as usual. I'm not really sure what else to say about this, as it's probably already been said before (ha, ha), but I can say that Undertow is easily one of the better SXE bands around today. This is no "At Both Ends", but your record collection would probably be incomplete without this. (Overkill, P.O. Box 20224, Seattle, WA 98102)

V/A "All the President's Men" LP- Another impressive release and another somewhat solid compilation from Old Glory. This record features a variety of good to great bands, including Assfactor 4, Maximillian Colby, Julia, Policy of 3, Hoover, Acme, Ordination of Aaron, Shotmaker, and Hose Got Cable. The majority of these bands deserve some investigation, and all in all, this is a well-rounded compilation that would be a good place to start. Check this out. (Old Glory)

V/A "XXX" 2xLP- The name speaks for itself on this one, as all the bands included on this compilation are SXE, although you might not otherwise know it, because none of these bands scream about "drug free youth" or predominantly don the X. Most of the bands featured on this record are pretty good, with a few incredible stand-outs, and featured are the likes of Monster X, Via, Well Away, Frail, Policy of 3, Trees Without Leaves, Prozac Memory, Program, Groundwork, Portraits of Past, Threadbare, Shatter the Myth, Endeavor, and None Left Standing. The whole purpose of this record is to tear down the stereotypes so that are so commonly associated with SXE, and there is a nice booklet included that pretty much says it all. If you happen to be one of those people who thinks anyone involved with SXE is a mindless jock, then this is probably for you, because we're not all such bad people afterall. (Ebullition)

Walleye "Familiar, Forgotten" CD- Jade Tree seems to be putting out one awesome record after another these days, with Walleye's debut full length certainly being no exception. Walleye is another band that seems to improve with every record they release, and while I've liked everything I've heard from these guys, this album hit me particularly hard. The music has been molded to near perfection, and the vocals convey the numerous feelings aroused by this record well. Walleye have definitely outgrown all those comparisons to Samiam with this one, and have become a band all their own. (Jade Tree)

# Reviews



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# LIFETIME



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# SCREAMS FROM INSIDE

A new wave of personal style, "spill your guts" type of 'zines have become prevalent in hardcore, and Screams From Inside is right in the thick of things. Carissa, the 'zines editor seemed like an interesting enough person, so I decided to inquire as to whether she would like to do an interview. Well, she wouldn't tell me her last name because she says she wants to remain mysterious like Cher or Madonna, but she practically told me everything else. The following interview took place through the ever so trustworthy U.S. mail service sometime in September, so check out what Carissa Screams has to say.

## HELP- Why the name Screams From Inside?

CARISSA- Screams From Inside was from, I believe, a Rites of Spring song. I couldn't find a name, so I looked through my seven inches at song names. I picked Screams From Inside because it sounded scary, and I got to be Carissa Screams.

## HELP- Doing a 'zine takes a lot of time and effort. What inspires you to keep working?

CARISSA- I have no life. I have nothing to do. I have a lot of creative energy I need to put to some use. It makes me feel like I have accomplished something. So when people come up and ask me, "What do you do?", I have something to hand them. To tell you the truth, it is one of the few things in my life that I found dependable. It is up to me whether or not it remains tomorrow, or continues for the next twenty years. I don't really care if people read it, or like it. But it's a piece of myself I am able to give people anywhere in the world. I like the feeling that you can communicate that way, that you can get letters from people you don't even know. Punk rock to me provides a source of communication. I get that through my 'zine.

## HELP- You wrote once that everywhere you go, there's no place for a woman. Please elaborate.

CARISSA- Try to think of a club for womyn. A real, actually certified club. One that isn't scrutinized. Now, think of any type of group- churches, government institutions, subcultures, political groups, businesses, schools, etc. It's only been the past few years that womyn became a part of these institutions. These institutions contain the power, the possibility to create change. These institutions contain resources, and the resources are usually distributed to men. In order for a woman to have part of these resources, she needs to appease the men, otherwise she gets nothing. The womyn who manage to get anywhere (ie. have power and resources) do it by appeasing men, by following their rules, and trying to basically become one of them. Since the masculine gender owns all the resources, they are seen as the superior gender. The only real difference between men and womyn are sexual gender (whether they are cultural or genetic, we never really found out). It's almost like there is a need to eliminate any feminine gender qualities. Qualities such as compassion, listening rather than demanding, motherly instinct, flowers, hearts; these are seen as weakness. It is beginning to become a world of holding it all in and keeping a big smile on your face. Independence and aggression are almost like compliments. Independence is good to a point, but one person cannot move a couch, you need two. Social change is established by groups, not individuals. Individuals only talk among themselves, they don't do. Anyway, a typical female has no place in this changing world. I call myself a feminist, but I still like to cook, sew, babysit, fall in love, be emotional, and make things beautiful. I still want to stay home and raise my kids for at least a couple years without the fear of looking "too feminine" or stupid. What is really the point of living anyway? To work? To produce more junk? It's just that people use those things against you and keep you out of the circle with it. Thus, I have no place to go. I have no woman to look upon, to imitate, to be influenced by, because every female is bad. You're either a bad woman, or just a woman. I want something better.

**HELP- What troubles you the most about the hardcore scene, in general?**

CARISSA- It troubles me when there is a lack of community. When we begin to produce hierarchies among ourselves which exclude others. Also, when we have all these we have to follow, and if we don't, we're looked down upon. The things that bother me about the scene are the things that usually bother me about human nature- greed, intolerance, refusing to care, refusing to listen. We have so many bad qualities, how do we expect the scene to change for the better when we can't focus on ourselves and what we do? But isn't that nearly impossible to do? It's virtually impossible to take another's perspective, especially if you are a complete idiot. I guess the only thing you can really do about the hardcore scene is accept it as it is, because no matter how hard we try, there will never be a utopia. The people who realize hardcore is no utopia are more positive to the scene than those who think this is the way the world should be.

**HELP- If you could change one thing about yourself, what would it be and why?**

CARISSA- Maybe I would want to be cold and emotionless. Maybe then, life would be much easier for me. Sure, I'd make other's lives a living hell, but what would I care- I'm cold and emotionless. I am an overly obsessive person. I will want something, and there is nothing that can get in my way. It will be all I think of, all the time. I will sit alone at shows, writing frantically in my journal, or with my head in my lap, trying to calm the pain these obsessions give me. I wish I didn't have this. I would get so much more done if I didn't have to worry about it. If I didn't have to do all the caring for everybody else.

**HELP- If you could meet one person, living or dead, who would it be and why?**

CARISSA- The person I would most want to meet would be my grandfather from my mother's side. During WWII, he translated information from the Nazis to the U.S., Dutch, English, etc. Once you know something, you are responsible for that information. He used to run a radio station during wartime, and would play all that rock n' roll music that was just coming about. He got captured by the Russians, and put into a concentration camp. Once he was released, he wrote a book about the politics in WWII, and about the concentration camp. He was knighted in Hungary and Poland for writing that book and his services in the war. I feel like my grandfather is a piece of me. I like what he made out of his life. I want to be able to do the same.

**HELP- What was one of your most embarrassing moments?**

CARISSA- I got to the point that nothing really embarrassed me. It was a long, hard drive, but I finally got there. I acquired this new roommate and best friend. She would do just about anything to embarrass me. She would pull up my shirt in public places saying, "Look, padded bra." We would hold hands. You wouldn't believe how many people harass you when you hold the hand of another woman. Everytime I had a crush on a boy, she would walk up and tell him. Every part of my life was exposed to everyone, and you know, it was refreshing in a way, because after awhile you have nothing to hide and nothing to be scared of.

**HELP- What makes you happy?**

CARISSA- Love makes me happy. Nothing else does. Love, whether it be a friend, boyfriend, family, etc. It helps to heal you from all the terrible things that happen in this world. It can be the one thing that destroys you, but it can also be the only thing to save you. It's the only thing that keeps you from jumping off the ledge. The people who love you call out your name, phone calls, letters; all of them keep us away from the silence that exists in our hearts.

**HELP- What would you want someone who reads your 'zine to come away with?**

CARISSA- A better understanding of themselves. In my 'zine, I describe emotions, I describe thinking, I describe the life process. I want people to read it and feel better because they might have never approached a problem like that. When I am upset about something, I never tell my friends about it, I talk to strangers. I tell them all my problems. I get a lot of unusual answers and perspectives from them. Sometimes, when I'm consumed in that problem, I pick something up and it helps me. It gives me new answers and helps me cope. That's what I want my 'zine to do.

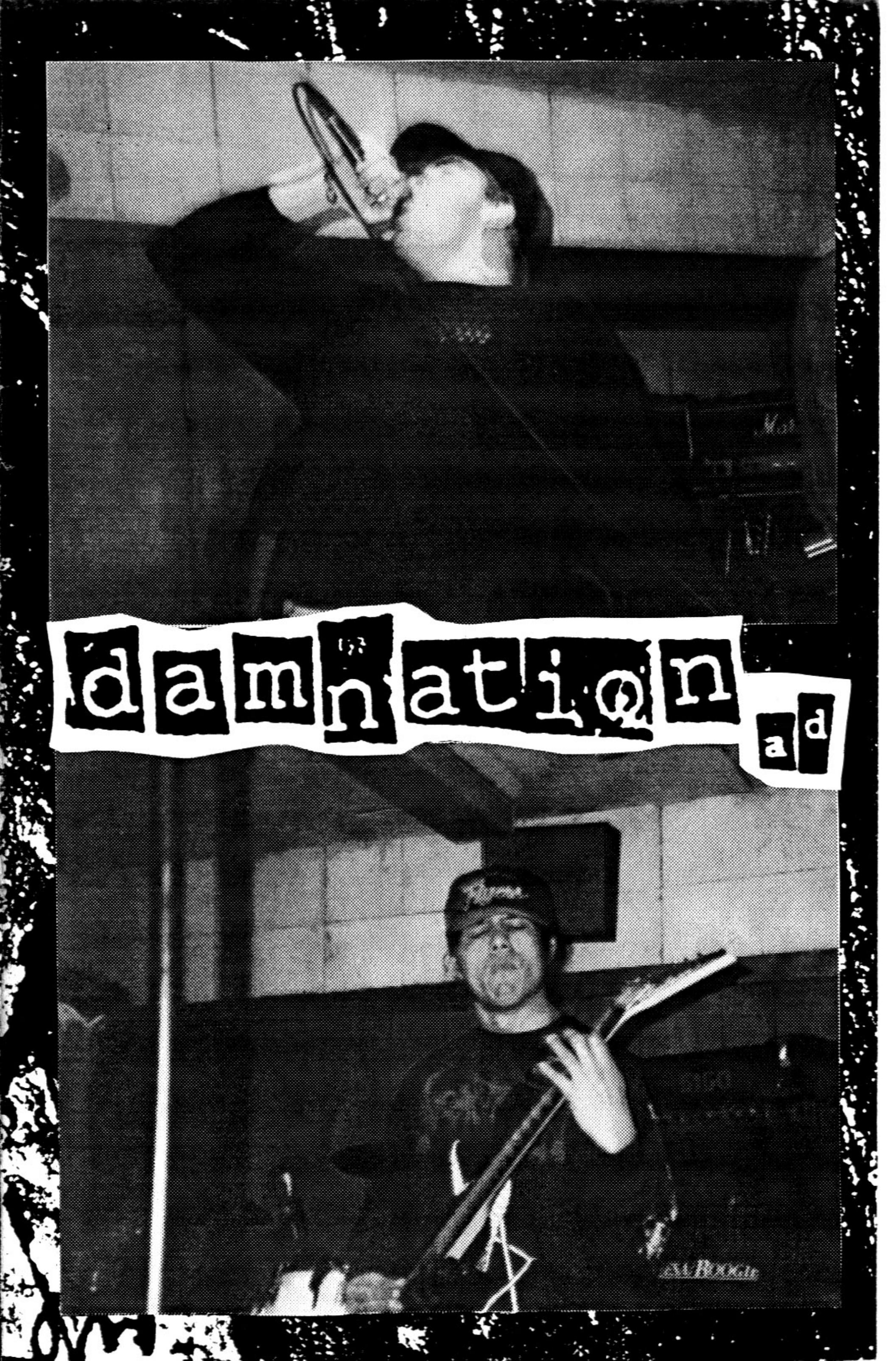
**HELP- What can we expect from you in the future?**

CARISSA- Probably the same thing. I want to write more stories, though. I want to be able to clarify my thoughts, so I can communicate to a wider audience. I can't really tell you what will happen in the future. For me, whatever happened in my life was the least thing I would expect, but my 'zine and my writing will reflect whatever changes come into my life. I want to start an all girl band and I want to start a label, but those are all pipe dreams. I have school now, and not much money. I don't have many friends in the crust capital (Minneapolis) of the world, and whatever I want to do is nearly impossible. I get no support. The 'zine I can pretty much do independently, but everything else, I need other people.

**HELP- Any closing comments?**

CARISSA- Know good. Understand what goodness to the world and community is. Not by what your parents or society told you, but by the effects on your community. It is good to give a bum a dollar when (s)he asks for one. It is good to tell the truth in all circumstances. Don't depend on your politics or beliefs to make good, depend on your actions.

**Screams From Inside  
P.O. Box 13044  
Minneapolis, MN 55414**



damnation

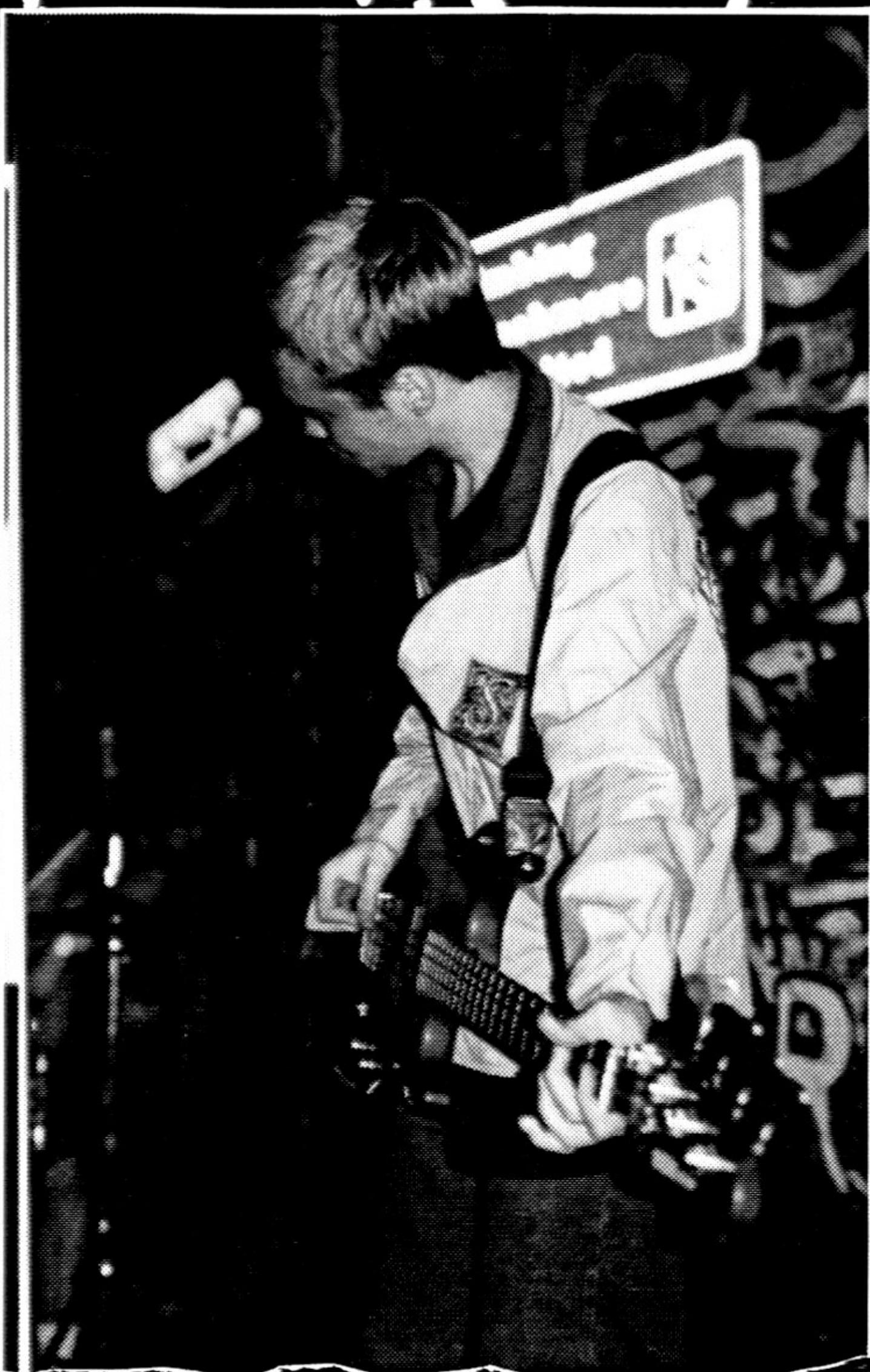
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**END POINT** →



**4wallsfalling**



# UNDERGROUND

BY KEN KLEIN

I originally intended to include more writing in help #2, but in the end, I wasn't all that thrilled with any of the ideas I had in mind. From here on out, what I'd like to try and do is have a columns type section that features writing from different people from all over. If you think you have something to say or have an interesting story to tell, please send it in for consideration. I can't guarantee I'll print anything, but I'm pretty open minded as long as your article is well written and worthwhile. I'd like to add some diversity to help, and I just don't feel like I can do that alone.

## GOD FREE YOUTH?

Religion has always been a subject discussed in hardcore, but only recently has it become a topic of major concern. With the coming of those "crazy" krishnas and the birth of "spirit-filled", Christian hardcore, it seems like everyone is either for or against religion these days. Last issue I printed an article entitled "Drug Free, God Free" that my good friend Dan Carolin wrote, and although response to the article was somewhat low, it did seem to rub a few people the wrong way. Honestly, neither Dan nor I thought the article was very well written at all, and Dan admits to being very stubborn and one-sided about his atheism, which is mostly due to his parents various attempts to convert him. Because the "Drug Free, God Free" article was poorly written, and because I agreed with very little of it's content, I feel I should make my feelings toward Christianity known.

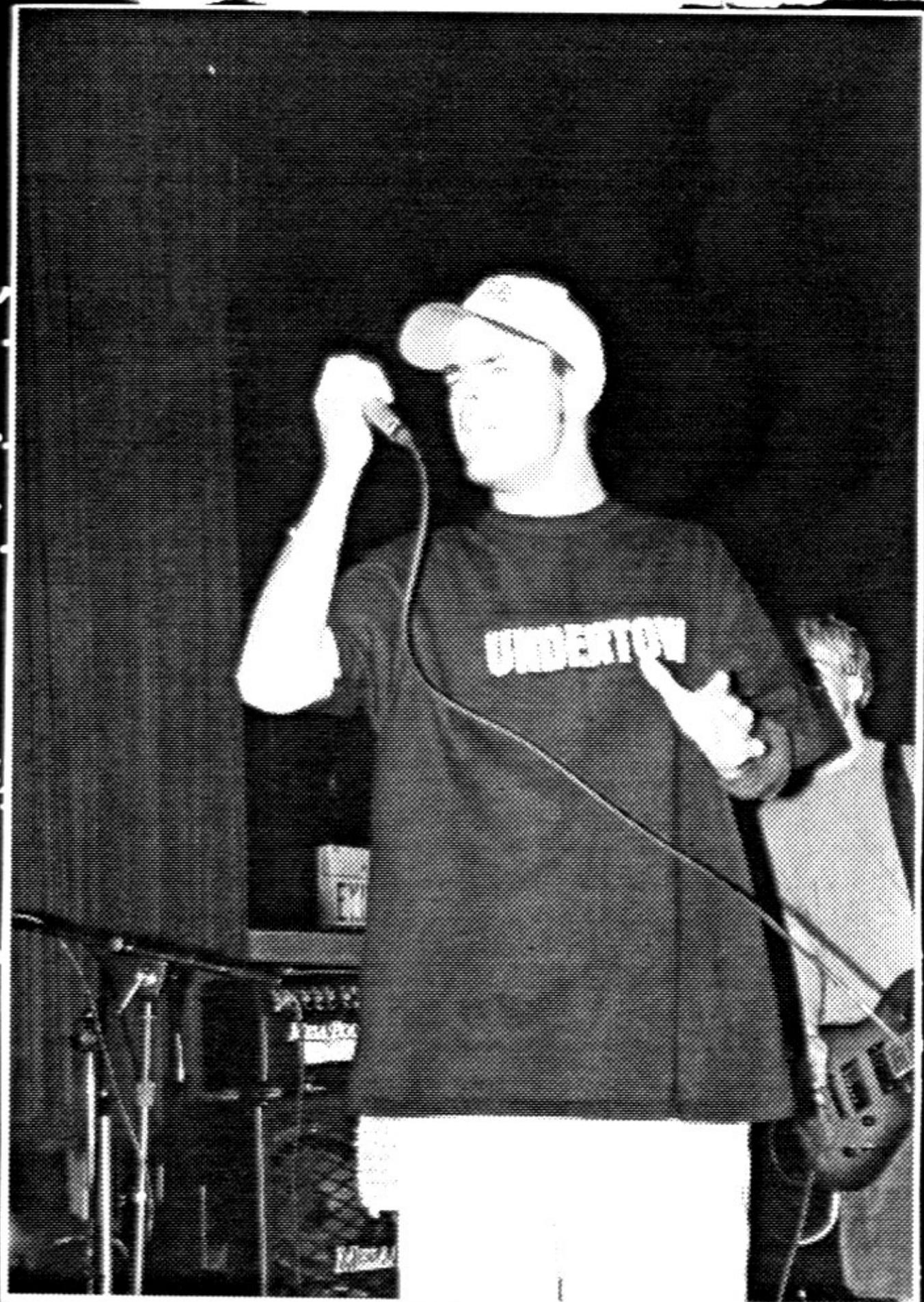
Let me make it clear right from the start that this article is not an attempt to prove whether a god exists or not. I don't have those answers, and by no means am I going to pretend that I do. Frankly, I don't think a person on this planet knows whether god, whoever or whatever that may be, is real or make believe, and I guess it all comes down to what you feel in your heart. And that is exactly what I'd like to discuss here, what I feel, or don't feel in this case, in my heart about Christianity. The following are a few of the major quirks I have with many Christians and Christianity, in general.

One thing I find to be particularly interesting is that most Christians find it hard to believe that someone who is not Christian could have values and morals. I'd like to think I'm a pretty decent person, or at least try to be, which is no more or less than any Christian is doing, but it seems like I've heard this one time and time again. Why would someone who doesn't believe in god, or the reward of going to heaven or the penalty of going to hell, even attempt to live a righteous life? Really, what is the worth of struggling to do good if you're not going to be rewarded with the kingdom of heaven in the end, so why not live a life of sin and indulgence if you're not going to have to pay for it in the depths of hell either, right? Well, to put it simply, I value the short amount of time I have here on Earth, and I want to make the best of it for myself and those around me, regardless of what happens when I die. I guess you could call it common sense, which leads me to my next point.

A vast number of people lack a strong sense of ethics, and while no one is perfect, myself included, many need clear-cut rules laid down for them. For a majority of people, the Bible becomes this foundation, and this is where Christianity becomes a crutch. Don't get me wrong, I'm certainly not saying that all Christians are mindless slaves incapable of thinking for themselves, but I do feel that many Christians take what is written in the Bible as the absolute truth, without ever questioning what is taught. It scares me to think that someone could possibly take something as important as a commitment to Christianity seriously without ever questioning their beliefs, and I don't understand how someone could base their entire life around something without ever trying to tear down their so-called "truths." It is this lack of critical thinking, on many accounts, that greatly concerns me.

But one of my biggest problems with Christianity comes with the choice I'm offered-believe or burn. The Bible says either I bow down and accept Jesus Christ as my savior, or supposedly I will be condemned to forever burn in hell. That's really not much of a choice, and unfortunately, this leads many half-hearted, frightened individuals into blindly accepting Christianity in hopes of being saved from the fiery pits of hell. Well, I don't know about you, but I refuse to accept anything on the basis of fear alone, and for someone who at least tries to live a good life, this just isn't fair. I know, supposedly if I seek I shall find, but let's just say for argument's sake that I seek with all my heart and come up empty handed. That's a pretty harsh penalty to pay, wouldn't you say?

As for now, I personally don't feel that I need Christianity, or any other religion for that matter, in my life, and at this point I can't say if I ever will. Who knows, maybe something somewhere down the road will sway my opinion, but for now it remains the same. Christianity can be a good thing for some people and maybe what is written in the Bible is true, but I have yet to feel that truth for myself and I'm not so sure Christianity is necessary for everyone, myself included. Honestly, I'd like to believe that a god exists and that there's something more after my time ends here on Earth, but the fact remains, I don't feel god's love for me in my heart. If that means there is a place in hell for me, then so be it, because I'd rather do the wrong thing for the right reasons anyday. Basically, that is what it all comes down to, and yes, sometimes that scares me.



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